

# 2006 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts



**Virginia Highway Safety Office  
Richmond, Virginia**

# Commissioner's Message

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Dear Reader,

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is pleased to present the 2006 edition of **Virginia Traffic Crash Facts**. This document provides a comprehensive, statistical overview of traffic crashes occurring in Virginia. It serves as an excellent resource for traffic safety professionals and others interested in the human behavioral impact of traffic crashes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fellow highway safety partners and advocates for their efforts. We at DMV pledge our continued commitment to safe highways for all citizens through innovative, effective and efficient public services.

I hope you will find this publication to be a useful tool in problem identification and resolution, education and awareness and the promotion of community and traffic safety.

Sincerely,



D. B. Smit  
Governor's Highway Safety Representative for Virginia

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# Glossary

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**Alcohol-related crash:** Crash where a driver, bicyclist or pedestrian is listed on the police report as drinking before the crash.

**Alcohol-related fatality:** Person who dies within 30 days as a result of a traffic crash involving alcohol.

**Crash rate:** Number of crashes per 100 million vehicle miles, unless otherwise stated.

**Death rate per vehicle miles traveled:** Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles.

**Death rate per drivers:** Number of fatalities per 1,000 Virginia licensed drivers.

**Fatal crash:** Crash which results in one or more fatalities.

**Fatality:** Person who dies within 30 days as a result of a traffic crash.

**Licensed drivers:** Statistics are calendar year and include learner's permits.

**Percentage:** Based on “known” totals within categories or actions. Does not include “unknown” or “not stated” data.

**Personal injury crash:** Crash which results in no fatalities but one or more persons are injured.

**Property damage crash:** Crash which results in no fatalities or injuries, but there is property damage of at least \$1,000.

**Registered vehicles:** Statistics are calendar year.

**Reportable traffic crash:** Crash on a public highway which involves death, injury or property damage in excess of \$1,000.

**Vehicle miles traveled (VMT):** Total number of miles traveled on Virginia highways.

NOTE: Percentage on tables within documents is rounded and may not equal 100 percent.

# 2006 Quick Facts About Virginia

## General Facts

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- 961 persons were killed, a 1.59 percent increase from 2005
- 73,348 persons were injured, a 3.52 percent decrease from 2005
- 151,692 traffic crashes were reported, a 1.40 percent decrease from 2005
- There were 5,394,888 licensed drivers, a 0.61 percent increase from 2005
- There were 81,093,510,000 estimated vehicle miles traveled, a 0.94 percent increase from 2005
- There were 7,386,061 registered vehicles, a 1.92 percent increase from 2005

## Alcohol-Related Facts

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- 374 persons were killed in alcohol-related crashes, a 16.15 percent increase from 2005\*
- 7,543 persons were injured in alcohol-related crashes, a 0.41 percent increase from 2005
- 46 teenagers, aged 15-19, were killed in alcohol-related crashes, 4.79 percent of the total (961) traffic fatalities
- 866 teenagers, aged 15-19, were injured in alcohol-related crashes, 1.18 percent of the total (73,348) traffic injuries
- 24,927 persons were tested with blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 percent or greater, a 1.41 percent decrease from 2005
- The average BAC of tested drinking drivers was .1409\*\*
- Of those convicted of DUI, 81.38 percent were male and 17.98 percent were female
- 29,595 persons were convicted of DUI, a 5.43 percent increase from 2005

NOTE: \*Medical examiner data used in addition to police reports to determine alcohol-related status.

\*\*This includes an average of both breath and blood tests.